

February 7, 2018

**Dear 2018 FWAHS Graduates and Parents,**

Graduation plans are well underway. Our records indicate that your senior is planning on participating in the 2018 Commencement Ceremonies. If you have decided not to participate please let us know immediately. FWAHS provides a formal ceremony and reception. Each individual home school determines certification for graduation. A diploma is the responsibility of each individual family to order for their home school.

Awarding of the diplomas will be by the graduate's parents or guardians. Parents have up to one minute to award the diploma. This time includes any comments made by one and/or both parents. Parents, we encourage you to remember this is a commencement in honor of a new beginning. You may wish to give your graduate a challenge or blessing for the future. Graduates then have 30 seconds each to thank parents, including giving his or her mother a rose. Planning your speeches ahead will make the presentations much more meaningful and interesting for you and your guests. The ceremony will probably last more than an hour and a half. Please keep within the allotted times that you are given. We all need to work to be prepared.

FWAHS has these requirements for graduates:

- **There will be a \$25 participation fee to help offset our costs for commencement.**
- Graduate families need to be *Homemade News* subscribers.
- **Graduates and both parents/guardians are required to attend the Friday evening dress rehearsal (similar to 40 wedding rehearsals rolled into one) and the reception following the ceremony as well as the ceremony. It is recommended that you do not plan an open house before 3:00 p.m.**
- Parents(s) or guardian(s) of the graduate will present their school's diploma.
- The graduate needs to have been homeschooled, at least, his entire senior year. Homeschooling is defined as 50% of the student's education completed in the home by an individual with a legal relationship to the student. An exception would be allowed for those students enrolled in an institution where they are receiving dual credits.
- Responsibilities of graduating families include: payment of \$25 participation fee, a biography for the program, graduate pictures for a multimedia presentation, a diploma, a senior table display, a commercial unaltered matching cap and gown (with tassel), the payment for a rose, an immediate family list, and 3 dozen homemade cookies for the reception. There is an optional DVD of the ceremony for \$15.

Graduates **MUST** meet the stated deadline of March 15, 2018 for the submission of all necessary requirements and information. If you miss this deadline and still wish to participate in the FWAHS Commencement, there will be a \$100 late charge payable to FWAHS upon delivery of the completed, required submissions up until April 1, 2018. If the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline is missed the graduate will not be able to participate in the Commencement. **We encourage all graduates and parents to read the newsletter carefully and fulfill all the required tasks on time.**

If you have any questions feel free to contact us:

Doug & Heather Kemerly, (260) 748-4458, [graduation@fwahs.org](mailto:graduation@fwahs.org) or [notone2mny@gmail.com](mailto:notone2mny@gmail.com) you may also call or text Heather @ (260) 415-2210 (more reliable way to contact Heather)

# **FWAHS Commencement Details**

**Rehearsal:** Friday, June 1st, 2018  
First Assembly of God  
1400 W. Washington Center Rd.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46825  
**Graduates only** (no siblings or friends)  
*Be there ready to begin by 6 PM. We will begin promptly at 6:00 PM.*  
**All Parents and All Graduates** only  
*Be there ready to begin by 7:30 PM. We will begin promptly at 7:30 PM.*

## ***REHEARSAL IS MANDATORY FOR ALL GRADUATES AND ALL PARENTS***

Be sure to bring your matching, unaltered, commercial cap and gown – ironed and labeled! Don't forget your tassel! Graduates please also bring your 3 dozen homemade cookies in a disposable container. *Please arrive early enough to turn things in and find your assigned seating before your beginning time.*

**Commencement:** Saturday, June 2nd, 2018 @ 11:00 AM  
First Assembly of God  
1400 W. Washington Center Rd.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Feel free to invite as many friends and family members as you wish. There is plenty of seating available just not with the graduate's immediate family. It is suggested that families make prior arrangements to meet extended family members and friends at their graduate's table after the commencement as the graduates and their immediate families will be seated in a designated area during the ceremony.

This is a formal event and dress attire is expected by the graduates for the ceremony. No shorts, jeans or other very casual clothing are to be worn under the gowns. Young men are to wear dress shirts, ties, dress pants, and dress shoes. A young lady should wear a dress or skirt no longer than the academic gown and dress shoes. Please wear comfortable yet dressy shoes, no flip-flops or tennis shoes. Girls are not to wear extreme high heels or open-backed shoes that flap when you walk.

## **Musical Presentation Opportunities**

Any graduate desiring to tryout to do a musical presentation just prior to the commencement ceremony will need to send a video via email, a DVD or youtube video of the performance exactly as they plan to perform it. All performances must be less than five minutes. No more than three will be chosen. The DVD should be sent to the Kemerlys by March 1<sup>st</sup>. Please send to [notone2mny@gmail.com](mailto:notone2mny@gmail.com)

## **Senior Tables**

Senior Tables serve as the receiving line for the graduates and their parents. Each graduate will have a 6-7' round table to display his or her items. This is your space to show who you are. Ideas include: pictures, hobbies, trips, skills, and interests. Put your own spin on your display! Tablecloths are a nice touch, but you must provide your own. It is usually best to select a few well-chosen pictures in a montage style display. Tables will be in alphabetical order. No switching of tables is permitted. No electricity will be available. Tables will need to be decorated between 9:30-10:00 am the morning of the Commencement.

## **Reception**

Graduates should bring 3 dozen homemade cookies to the rehearsal Friday evening, June 1<sup>st</sup> so the volunteers may prepare for the reception. Cookies need to be in disposable containers that do not need to be returned. Please do not bring cookies that have been made in advance and frozen. Previous experience has shown that these cookies tend to crumble.

## **Seating Requirements:** Doug & Heather (260)415-2210 or [notone2mny@gmail.com](mailto:notone2mny@gmail.com)

Parents will present diplomas to their graduates at the graduation ceremony. In order to coordinate the presentations and ensure good seating for immediate family members, **please provide a list of only the immediate family members who will be attending.** By “immediate family members” we mean those who live in the same house with the graduate. Sometimes there is enough space for graduated or married siblings to sit with you also, but we can’t tell until we begin creating the seating chart. One way to help me with this is to give me both numbers if you have married kids, then if we can fit them in, we will. Please also make me aware of any handicap needs of individuals in the list you provide.

All information is required by March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Please e-mail us at [notone2mny@gmail.com](mailto:notone2mny@gmail.com) or [graduation@fwahs.org](mailto:graduation@fwahs.org) or if you prefer, you may call or text us. You may invite all the family and friends you wish, however they will not be able to sit in the same area as your immediate family during the ceremony. Thank you for your help in making this a smooth and memorable graduation celebration.

## **Graduation Program:** Heather Kemerly [graduation@fwahs.org](mailto:graduation@fwahs.org) (260)415-2210

**Due date March 15<sup>th</sup>.** Your brief biographies as the 2018 graduating class members will be included in the graduation program. Please compose and submit the bio using the following guidelines:

- Write the biography in third person.
- Keep the number of words between 125-175 words. Please keep it within this range. The program coordinator will edit as necessary.
- This is a professional commencement ceremony program. Please respect your fellow classmates and your families in composing your bio.
- Type or print your information.

- Read through biographies in past programs to get ideas.
- Make your bio informative and descriptive. **Include your first, middle and last name to be used in the program and PowerPoint.** Keep the bio unique to you. Some suggestions are provided below. You don't need to include all of them.
  - When and where you were born
  - Your family... parents' names, siblings' information, etc.
  - Homeschooling history...how long, school name, and specific areas of study
  - Your interests and/or hobbies
  - Involvements and/or activities
  - Future plans...especially college or vocational plan
  - A significant Scripture verse
- Completed biographies may be uploaded to the FWAHS website at [www.fwahs.org/gradsub.htm](http://www.fwahs.org/gradsub.htm) by selecting the Bio Submission Page button. You may also email it to us at [notone2mny@gmail.com](mailto:notone2mny@gmail.com) [graduation@fwahs.org](mailto:graduation@fwahs.org) or mail a printed copy to: **FWAHS Grad Bios, 1521 Green Rd, New Haven, IN 46774**. Please include your phone number or e-mail address if you send me your biography so I can contact you regarding any issues that may arise. I will send you a response on receipt of the biography. At this point, my home email is the best way to send me this.

### **PowerPoint Presentation:** [graduation@fwahs.org](mailto:graduation@fwahs.org)

**Due date March 15<sup>th</sup>.** Each graduate will be allotted ten pictures, which will be shown as the graduates are walking up to the stage to receive their diplomas. The presentation will be done using PowerPoint software and the First Assembly projection system. Photos will be digitally compiled into the slideshow. Photos may be sent to Heather as soon as possible, but no later than March 15<sup>th</sup>. Photos may be uploaded to the FWAHS website at [www.fwahs.org/gradsub.htm](http://www.fwahs.org/gradsub.htm) by selecting the Photo Submission Page button. You may also email them to [graduation@fwahs.org](mailto:graduation@fwahs.org) or mail actual photos to **FWAHS Grad Photos, 1521 Green Road, New Haven, IN 46774**. If you choose to mail your photos please include your name and phone number and e-mail address so that I am able to contact you if there are problems. My preferred way for you to send these would be to my private email address: [notone2mny@gmail.com](mailto:notone2mny@gmail.com). This seems to be the most reliable way for me to get the photos.

The purpose of the slide show presentation is to display the life of the graduate. The following are some guidelines for submitting pictures:

- Please send 10 clear photographs
- Indicate in what order the pictures should be shown (number them in the email)
- Please don't send them in a power point format or pdf format. JPG is the best and easiest format for us to work with

- Possible picture selections may include: baby picture, infant/toddler, elementary age, high school, hobbies, current or graduation photo.
- Please review your pictures with modesty in mind.

\*\*\* If you haven't already done so, senior portraits need to be taken immediately so they will be ready for the March 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. \*\*\*

## **Video Orders**

We will have a professional videographer taping the commencement ceremony. He will have direct microphone connections and does a great job editing the video. Please consider how many of these you will want to order. Videos are a great way of sharing the event with long distance relatives. To purchase copies of the DVD at \$15 each, please use the order form below. Please allow 6 weeks after the commencement ceremony for delivery. Orders with payment are due with other requirements.

## **Roses**

All graduates will give a rose to their mother during the ceremony. Color choices for the rose are: Red, Yellow, White, or Pink.

**Cost:** \$5.00

**Deadline:** March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Roses and DVD can be ordered and paid for online on the FWAHS website at [www.fwahs.org/gradsub.htm](http://www.fwahs.org/gradsub.htm) by selecting the Rose Order Page button. You may order through the mail using the order form below.

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### **Rose and DVD Order Form**

Send form with check or money order made out to FWAHS to:

FWAHS  
1521 Green Rd  
New Haven, IN 46774

Rose \$5 = \_\_\_\_\_  
DVD \$15 x # of dvds = \_\_\_\_\_  
total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$

Name of Graduate \_\_\_\_\_

Rose Color:   Red ☐                  Yellow ☐

                    Pink ☐                  White ☐

## **2018 Graduate Deadlines**

**March 1      Video/Dvd due to the Kemerlys for music performance tryouts**

<b>March 15</b>	<b>\$25 participation fee</b>
<b>March 15</b>	<b>Photos and biographies due</b>
<b>March 15</b>	<b>Seating requirements, rose orders, and video orders due</b>
<b>April 1</b>	<b>\$100 late requirements deadline</b>
<b>June 1</b>	<b>Dress Rehearsal – Bring labeled cap, tassel &amp; pressed, labeled and unaltered gown, cookies, diploma and camera</b>
<b>June 2</b>	<b>Commencement – Bring senior table items, diploma and your camera.</b>

*Be sure to mark these dates and events on your calendar and be sure to take the time of work if needed.*

## **Ordering Information**

Gowns, caps, tassels, invitations and diplomas may be ordered from both online and local vendors. Each graduate's cap needs to be the same color as his or her gown. If using a used gown remember to purchase a tassel. A few vendors are listed below.

The Graduation Place:

[http://www.graduationplace.com/product\\_p/pha.htm](http://www.graduationplace.com/product_p/pha.htm)

HSLDA

<https://store.hslda.org/all-c19.aspx>

Homeschool Diploma

<http://www.homeschooldiploma.com/>

Jostens

[http://www.jostens.com/grad/homeschool\\_lp\\_main.html](http://www.jostens.com/grad/homeschool_lp_main.html)